



CALPEEK

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GOP ASSEMBLY CAUCUS WARS: DUMPING ON ROSS.

Editor's note: It seems to happen at least once a session, but this time insiders say the recent attempt to oust GOP Assembly Leader Ross Johnson was nearly successful. Here's CALPEEK's update...

...The latest brouhaha over Johnson's job as GOP Minority Leader ended May 13th when anti-Johnson forces within the GOP Assembly Caucus came up 1 vote short of dumping the Republican leader: 15 in favor of ousting and 16 opposed. Leading the anti-Johnson forces this time was Paul Woodruff of Redlands, aided by a mixed group of hardliners and moderates. Unlike some of the past revolts Johnson has survived against the forces led by Stan Statham and Bill Jones, this time IDEOLOGY had less to do with how caucus members lined up...

...Instead, it was VENDETTA time. For example, CALPEEK sources say that 4 fellow Orange County GOP members voted with the anti-Johnson forces. Three of the four (IDed by CALPEEK sources as Gil Ferguson, Doris Allen and Nolan Frizzelle) had lost elections to other Republicans where Johnson either directly or indirectly helped the winners. So it was payback time...

...Was LEADERSHIP a key issue? By all accounts, Johnson has NOT been as effective a leader as Pat Nolan, who was a take charge, make the system work conservative. So when the coup attempt got underway, there were some rumors that most of the freshmen were unhappy with Johnson's leadership. Not so. Of the 7 freshmen members, only Tom Mays of Huntington Beach and Paula Boland of Northridge voted to oust Johnson --- and Boland says she meant to vote FOR Johnson...

...Why did the coup fail? Lousy G-2 (meaning poor intelligence). Woodruff counted Trice Harvey as a solid ally and he wasn't.

Johnson made a deal with Harvey, thus Ross out-foxed his opponents — for the time being. Will there be another coup? Some say YES, but are unsure of the outcome. Any key losers? Tom Mays won't be Caucus Secretary much longer and Ross Johnson has been badly wounded. Stay tuned...

46th A.D. UPDATE: RACE STILL UP FOR GRABS.

Editor's note: With another week to go until the June 4 special election to replace retired Assemblyman Mike Roos(D), most insiders still rate the contest among the 12 Demos as a TOSS UP. Here is CALPEEK's update and analysis...

...This district in the heart of L.A. is Demo turf, meaning GOPers, P&F and Libertarians need not apply. As for the Demos, it's a very impressive field of candidates, even among those who are longshots. CALPEEK still sees the Demo contest as having 4 tiers. Here's our new pecking order:

- TOP TIER - Bob Burke, John Emerson and Barbara Friedman. No change...

- VERY CREDIBLE - T.S. Chung, Kathleen Torres and Keith Umemoto...

- POSSIBLE BREAKTHROUGHS - Mike Cacciotti, Jill Halverson and Adam Schiff...

- LONGSHOTS - Sal Genovese, John Ladner and Joselyn Yap...

...Except for the longshots, it's possible that any of the other 9 Demos could win the June 4 special. Of the top 9, CALPEEK moved Chung and Torres up to the 2nd tier, and moved Schiff up to the 3rd tier. We also moved Yap down a notch to longshot...

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...MAIL AND MESSAGE. The mail is just now beginning to hit and the frontrunners have plenty of it. But so do the others. And some of the mail is NEGATIVE. For example, CALPEEK sources say Caccoitti will hit all 3 frontrunners: Emerson and Burke for carpetbagging; and Friedman and Emerson as being tied to the "Westside outsiders." And Adam Schiff has mailed a brochure comparing his record as a Deputy U.S. Atty.(prosecuted 70 felony cases with 100% conviction rate) to that of Emerson's -- noting that Emerson is a political appointee. It's a good angle, especially if law & order and crime are as big an issue as all the candidates claim...

...The MONEY is still with Emerson and he has raised a ton. The reports were to be released on 5/23, after CALPEEK's deadline. It will be interesting to see who else among the Demos has credible standing in the money department...

...ENDORSEMENTS also are important and here Umemoto has gotten his share of good ones - CTA, CA State Employees Assn, CMA, plus some well known elected officials. But Friedman, Emerson and Burke also have their share of well known backers too. Emerson, Schiff and Burke are said to be battling for PORAC's endorsement, which is a key law enforcement group. Schiff already has backing from the CPOA. Chung has the endorsement of the Non-Partisan Candidate Evaluation Council, which means he'll be on Allan Hoffenblum's conservative slate. A good coup by Chung...

...But most ironic of all is the lack of an endorsement by the L.A. Times -- a tower of jello. Not long ago, the L.A. Times Sunday Magazine rated Jill Halverson as one of 10 Americans who should hold elective office. By not endorsing Halverson, the L.A. Times Editorial Board casts a huge shadow of doubt over the credibility of its own publication. Stay tuned...

TO CALPEEK SUBSCRIBERS: CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

If you're planning to move or have already done so, please send CALPEEK a change of address notice, WITH your current CALPEEK mailing label. The label contains a code which enables CALPEEK to quickly process your change of address...

KCRA-TV POLLS 1992 U.S. SENATE CONTEST.

Sacto TV station KCRA has released data on the 1992 U.S. Senate race here in Calif. that show U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell(R) and former Gov. Jerry Brown(D) leading their respective parties for the open/full term seat now held by retiring U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston(D)...

...The poll was conducted by Washington D.C.-based Political Media Research, Inc., between May 9-12 (409 Demos, 310 Republicans and 98 independents). Of the 310 Republicans questioned, 21% favored Campbell, 15% favored Bruce Herschensohn, 6% were for U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan and a huge 58% were undecided. On the Democratic side, 26% favored Jerry Brown, 16% were for Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy, 15% were for Controller Gray Davis, 6% favored U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer, 3% were for U.S. Rep. Bob Matsui, 2% were for U.S. Rep. Mel Levine and 32% were undecided. Stay tuned...

MORE SPECIAL ELECTIONS: 5th AND 67th A.D.

Editor's note: With the election of Assemblymembers Tim Leslie(R-Sacto) and John Lewis(R-Orange) to the State Senate on May 14, contestants are just now beginning to finalize plans to run for the two vacant Assembly posts in the 5th and 67th districts. Here's a brief update...

- 5th A.D. - This No. Calif. district takes in Sacto and Placer Counties. It has a 46% to 44% Demo registration edge, but is considered fairly safe GOP turf UNLESS the Demos come up with a great candidate. Demo names to surface include Roseville Mayor Pauline Rocucci and the 1990 Demo nominee, Joe Buonaiuto...

...But it is the GOP candidates who have generated the most interest - especially among conservatives. Mark Baughman officially announced May 20. He ran against U.S. Rep. Vic Fazio(D) in 1990. He's lined up GOP U.S. Reps. Doolittle and Herger; and Assemblymembers Chandler and Knowles. Consultant Wayne Johnson is running the campaign. Another solid conservative who is expected to announce is Barbara Alby, whose main support will come from "movement conservatives," the Sacto area CRA and from former State Sen. H.L. Richardson. Yet another conservative who may run is Chris Jones, vice chair of the Placer Co. GOP

Central Committee. He used to work for the Legislature and counts Assemblyman Bill Baker and new State Sen. John Lewis as key supporters. Also looking things over are Carla Lowe, Joe Sullivan and Dave Coglizer, vice chair of the Sacto chpt. of the Sierra Club...

• 67th A.D. - This Orange County district has a 59.98% GOP registration, meaning Democrats need not apply. Two announced GOP candidates so far: Orange City Councilman William G. Steiner and retired businessman Mickey Conroy. In the "testing the waters" category are Marcia Gilchrist, AA to State Sen. Ed Royce; and former Tustin Councilman John Kelly...

...If it turns out that the 67th features a two-person/Conroy vs. Steiner battle, some CALPEEK sources suggest that GOP Assembly Caucus politics might get injected into what might become a real slugfest. Of the two, Conroy is the more conservative. His chief backers are U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan and Assemblymembers Gil Ferguson and Nolan Frizelle. Conroy is a PRO-LIFE, anti-tax crusader, whose chief claim to fame is his long time effort to oust Tom Hayden from the State Assembly. Conroy has lined up Mark Ferguson of American Campaign Consultants to run his campaign...

...Steiner has retained Dresner, Sykes as well as Ellis/Hart to run his campaign. There's little doubt that Steiner will be much better funded and has the lion's share of the big name endorsements. The entire Orange Co. Board of Supes supports Steiner and State Sen. Marian Bergeson is the co-chair of his campaign. Steiner is pushing the theme that he's a free-enterprise/anti-tax conservative. While this may be true, he's also PRO-CHOICE. Stay tuned...

CA DEMO PARTY PANEL REJECTS CAUCUS IDEA.

The Delegate Selection Committee of the CA Democratic Party voted 25-9 in favor of the old plan for picking delegates to the 1992 DNC presidential nominating convention in New York. In other words, the committee rejected the half & half plan which called for an early March Caucus followed by a regular primary in June. Final decision on how Demos select convention delegates will be made by the CDP's "E" Board on June 22-23 at the LAX Hyatt. Stay tuned...

L.A. ELECTION: ONE LAST WEEK TO CAMPAIGN.
Editor's note: L.A. City voters face 5 important BALLOT MEASURES, as well as runoff elections for 4 city council seats and one special city council primary. Despite the importance of the June 4th election, CALPEEK sources are again anticipating a very LOW voter turnout. Here is CALPEEK's report & analysis...

• REPLACING MOLINA - There are 6 candidates vying to replace Gloria Molina in the 1st District, which takes in part of downtown, Chinatown, the Pico-Union area, Echo Park and Lincoln Heights. Six different L.A.P.D. divisions patrol this district. The population is 75% Hispanic and about 20% Asian. There are 38,000 registered voters, but only between 6,000 and 8,000 are expected to vote June 4...

...The frontrunner is Mike Hernandez, who is a staunch Molina supporter. Not only has Hernandez got the MOST money in this special, but he also has Molina's endorsement. Opinion is DIVIDED as to whether this is enough to get Hernandez past the primary without a runoff. Hernandez's two chief opponents are Sandra Figueroa, who is exec. director of El Centro del Pueblo, and Frank Juarez Foster, a businessman and community activist. To force a runoff, Foster and Figueroa need to get about 35% between them, and then hope that the 3 other candidates can win 15%. Is there any polling?? Yes, but how accurate is another question. A private poll showed Hernandez with 15.2%, Figueroa at 10.8% and Foster at 6.0%, with a massive undecided. The sample size was 300. CALPEEK will do one more update on this contest next week...

• 12th C.D. - Some insiders think the contest between incumbent Councilman Hal Bernson and challenger Julie Korenstein has tightened up in the past 10 days, with the advantage to Bernson. This is a reversal for Korenstein, who still may have the two term incumbent on the ropes. But Bernson's letter of endorsement from L.A.P.D. Chief Daryl Gates has been a BIG plus. And news accounts of Korenstein's past political connections to Jesse Jackson and the Peace & Freedom Party don't play well in this conservative district. And here's one: the L.A. Chapter of the American Planning Assn. has honored Bernson with a distinguished leadership award for his contribution to

excellence in public planning. Don't know if this will lessen the impact of the controversial Porter Ranch project, but it can't hurt...

● **BALLOT MEASURES** - Insiders figure that two measures are easy winners: Prop. 3, the "Lindsay Law," which allows for the replacement of elected officials who are unable to perform their duties; and Prop. 4, which tightens the city's anti-apartheid law. Rated as TOSS UPs are Prop. 1, a \$298 million park & recreation bond measure, which requires a difficult 2/3rds vote; and Prop. 2, a graffiti prevention TAX. The word "tax" could spell doom...

...But the real battle is over Prop. 5, the measure which L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley said he meant to veto, but signed by mistake. This would give the council greater control over commissions and independent boards. The Daily News has editorialized AGAINST Prop. 5. Slates should be mixed, some FOR and others AGAINST. Some CALPEEK insiders think the NO side should do well in the Black community, where support FOR the Police Commission to suspend Chief Gates was basically overturned by the council. So the whole Rodney King controversy might play a part in the final outcome of this battle. Stay tuned...

NEED MORE RECIPES FOR CALPEEK'S COOKBOOK.

CALPEEK will probably have to extend the May 30th deadline for submitting recipes for our Political Cookbook because we've only received 29 so far --- all great, but we need at least 20-30 more. So all you folks who have promised to send them in, PLEASE do so ASAP. The latest entries include Vegetarian Fundraising Chili from West Hollywood Councilwoman Abbe Land and Enchilada Initiatives from consultant Jack Nicholl. Thanks very much...

COALITION FOR BETTER CA LINKS GOP & DEMOS.

A bipartisan group known as the Coalition For A Better Calif. has been formed to push the idea that budget cuts alone can't solve the \$14 billion Calif. budget deficit and that TAXES too will be needed. CABC group includes CA State Employees Assn., CA Comm. on Aging, Child Guidance Centers, County Supes Assn. of CA, League of Women Voters

and the Trauma Foundation. There are 45 organizations in the CABC. The coalition's main purpose is to support those lawmakers who support the taxes as well as cuts. The CABC has hired Martin & Glantz of S.F./Washington D.C., Eileen Padberg of Orange Co. and Sara Katz of San Diego. Padberg and Katz are Republicans, while the Martin & Glantz PA firm works with Demos...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Name change. S.F.-based campaign mgt. firm of Whitehurst & Nelson is no longer around. Principal Phyllis Nelson is now working on S.F. Sup. Dick Hongisto's campaign for mayor. John Whitehurst is now the owner of The Strategy & Campaign Management Group, Inc., 5 Third St., #424, S.F. 94103 (415)543-9171...

● PR/cmp. manager Eric Rose, who has been doing some pro bono work for L.A.P.D. Chief Daryl Gates, has been hired by the Patrick Media Group as a PA representative for business in L.A. City/County...

● Msgr. E. James Petersen has been named exec. director of the CA Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the State's Catholic bishops...

● Consultants Glen Greener & Frank Adams and ad exec. Claudia Roxburgh have formed The Greensburgh Group, 245 Fischer Avenue, Ste. B-4, Costa Mesa, CA 92626, (714)755-0404. The firm specializes in community & Govt. relations and campaign management...

● Direct mail exec. Vince Monaco is now with Marketing Data Systems in Orange, CA. He was with Pacific Admail. He can be reached at (714)921-8888...

● Richard D. Martland, former chief assistant Calif. AG, will join the Nielsen, Merksamer, Hodgson et al law firm June 1...

● Meredith Preston, former vp & director of corporate communications at Hill & Knowlton/L.A., has opened her own PR firm at 1116 Pagoda Place, L.A. 90031, (213)342-9110...